

William Ribble Mayor District One

May 1, 2019

**Katy Errington** Vice Mayor **District Four** 

Ronald DeSantis, Governor 400 S. Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399

Howard Levitan District Two

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Ion McLain District Three

James Boesch District Five

We are writing you today to endorse our friend and colleague Nicholas "Nick" Batos for the position of Lee County Commissioner District #3 seat vacated by Commissioner Kiker's untimely death. Mr. Batos has lived in District #3 at 9165 Hollow Pine Drive, Estero, FL 34135 since 2002.

**Nick Batos** District Six

Jim Wilson District Seven

Steve Sarkozy Village Manager

**Burt Saunders** Village Attorney Dating back to 2005, Mr. Batos was well known as a member of the Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL). In 2012 he became chairman and began to hold public meetings to garner support for the incorporation of Estero and getting it on the November 2014 ballot. Several of us attended his public meetings and we were impressed by his professionalism in dealing with the public. He exemplified the core competencies needed in dealing with people and demonstrated a strong business acumen. His strategic plan in getting the Village of Estero on the map was passed with an 86% vote of support by our constituents at that November election.

On March 17, 2015, we had our first Village of Estero Council meeting and Mr. Batos was appointed as our first Village Mayor unanimously by his fellow council members.

Mr. Batos never forgot the importance of being a good Republican and kept up on his membership and the support of the party. He attended and hosted various fund-raising events for Lee County Commissioners John Manning, Larry Kiker, and Cecil Pendergrass. He also supported the event for Francis Rooney, US Congressman from Florida District 19.

Like most communities in southwest Florida, we are concerned with water issues. Protecting our Density Reduction Groundwater Resource (DR/GR) area is a priority for our community. We also look forward to establishing a strategic plan for "septic to sewer" conversions. These two issues along with limiting mining in our community are areas that Mr. Batos is knowledgeable and will address with public input.

We need a commissioner who is a locally respected leader that is knowledgeable about our issues and can be collaborative with the other county commissioners to resolve our county and regional issues. We hope that you will see fit to appoint Mr. Batos to the Lee County Commissioner District #3 seat.

Best regards,

Councilmembers Village of Estero

Mayor Bill Ribble

Councilmember Howard Levitan

ouncilmember Jim Boesch

Councilmember Jim Wilson

Vice Mayor Katy Errington

Councilmember Jon McLain

Councilmember Nick Batos